

What is claimed is:

1. A device for removing a thrombus filter from a blood vessel, comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough;
a wire having a first end and a second end;
the wire being partially disposed within the lumen of the shaft;
a portion of the wire extending beyond the distal end of the shaft and forming a loop; and
a portion of the wire extending beyond the proximal end of the shaft.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the loop formed by the wire is adapted to engage the thrombus filter.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein the loop formed by the wire is adapted to encircle a portion of the thrombus filter.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the first end and the second end of the wire extend beyond the proximal end of the shaft.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein the wire is comprised of Nitinol.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein the loop formed by the wire is generally perpendicular to the shaft.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the first end of the wire is fixed to the shaft proximate its distal end and the second end of the wire extends beyond the proximal end of the shaft.

8. The device of claim 1, further including a stabilizer disposed generally adjacent and parallel to the shaft, the stabilizer comprising an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end.

9. The device of claim 1, further including a stabilizer disposed generally adjacent and parallel to the shaft, the stabilizer comprising an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end wherein, the distal end of the elongate body of the stabilizer is adapted to engage the thrombus filter.

10. A device for removing a thrombus filter from a blood vessel, comprising:
a sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough;
a shaft disposed within the lumen of the sheath;
the shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough;
a wire having a first end and a second end;
the wire being partially disposed within the lumen of the shaft;
a portion of the wire extending beyond the distal end of the shaft and forming a loop; and
a portion of the wire extending beyond the proximal end of the shaft.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein the loop formed by the wire is adapted to engage the thrombus filter.

12. The device of claim 10, wherein the loop formed by the wire is adapted to encircle a portion of the thrombus filter.

13. The device of claim 10, wherein the first end and the second end of the wire extend beyond the proximal end of the shaft.

14. The device of claim 10, wherein the wire is comprised of Nitinol.

15. The device of claim 10, wherein the loop formed by the wire is generally perpendicular to the shaft.

16. The device of claim 10, wherein the first end of the wire is fixed to the shaft proximate its distal end and the second end of the wire extends beyond the proximal end of the shaft.

17. The device of claim 10, further including a stabilizer disposed within the lumen of the sheath, the stabilizer comprising an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end.

18. The device of claim 10, further including a stabilizer disposed within the lumen of the sheath, the stabilizer comprising an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the distal end of the elongate body of the stabilizer is adapted to engage the thrombus filter.

19. The device of claim 10, further including a stabilizer disposed within the lumen of the sheath, the stabilizer comprising an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end wherein, the elongate body of the stabilizer is longer than the sheath.

20. The device of claim 10, wherein the shaft is longer than the sheath.

21. A device for removing a thrombus filter from a blood vessel, comprising:
a catheter having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough;

a shaft disposed within the lumen of the catheter;

the shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough;

a plurality of elongate members each having a proximal end, and a distal portion terminating at a distal end;

a portion of each elongate member being disposed within the lumen of the shaft;

the distal portion of each elongate member extending beyond the distal end of the shaft; and

the distal portion of each elongate member including a plurality of bends such that the distal portions of the elongate members form a claw.

22. The device of claim 21, wherein the claw formed by the distal portions of the elongate member is adapted to engage the thrombus filter.

23. The device of claim 21, wherein an atraumatic tip is formed at the distal end of each elongate member.

24. The device of claim 21, wherein an atraumatic ball is disposed at the distal end of each elongate member.

25. The device of claim 21, wherein the proximal end of each elongate member extends beyond the proximal end of the shaft.

26. The device of claim 21, further including a rod disposed within the lumen of the shaft, the rod having a distal end and a proximal end, and wherein the proximal end of each elongate member is fixed to the distal end of the rod.

27. The device of claim 21, further including a rod disposed within the lumen of the shaft, the rod having a distal end and a proximal end, the proximal end of each elongate member being fixed to the distal end of the rod, and the proximal end of the rod extending beyond the proximal end of the shaft.

28. The device of claim 21, wherein each elongate member is comprised of Nitinol.